

16 December 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WH Division

REITER

: Colonel Grogan's Call re Mr. Dulles' Scheduled Appearance on "Meet the Press" (NBC-TV) at About 1800, 31 December 1961

1. Friday, 15 December, Colonel Grogan telephoned that Mr. Dulles would appear on the above program on the 31st and that the program would be taped about the 22nd. He said that the Castro question would, of course, come up and that Mr. Dulles would, of course, point with pride to the record of the Agency on Cuba and Castro and point out that the Cabell testimony of 5 November 1959 is usually quoted out of context. He said that Mr. Dulles was, of course, familiar with the Kovins broadcasts (see paragraph 3 of my memorandum to you of 11 December 1961 about a related question from Mr. Dulles).

2. Colonel Grogan said that Mr. Dulles proposed, subject to any expression of opinion of ours, to make the point that Castro may not now be the number one man in the regime, and that "Che" Guevara may not either; and that Blas Roca may be the effective top man in the regime. Stan asked whether WH had any objections to or comments on Mr. Dulles' making these points. I replied that I would recommend to [redacted] for Mr. Dulles that Carlos Rafael Rodriguez be coupled with Blas Roca as perhaps more influential than either Castro or "Che" Guevara, since both Blas Roca and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez had recently been to Moscow and had returned about two weeks (17 November) before Castro's 2 December speech in which he declared himself in effect a complete Communist. I said, however, that I would have to check with you and proceed to secure your approval. I phoned Stan back on Friday the 15th that you felt that so long as Mr. Dulles gave the view as an estimate on a "may be" basis and as his personal estimate, then giving the evidence to support the theory, we felt it was an excellent point to make, especially on that occasion. Stan asked me to call Mr. Dulles.

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3. I called Mr. Dulles back on Friday but he was busy. On Monday morning I talked to [redacted] to check the facts bearing on the point. I then phoned Mr. Dulles' office (Extension 8801) and in his absence gave his secretary, [redacted] the following background information, subject to any further information that Mr. Dulles might desire (Colonel Grogan had stated that Mr. Dulles wanted his information from us).

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